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SUBJECT Agricultural Conditions in Shantung

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Land redistribution in Shantung has passed the period of violent liquidations, but denunciations continue to mark the frequent meetings of the Peasants' Association. Individuals so denounced are forced to apologize publicly for their real or imagined crimes against the people.
2. Taxation in 1949 proved to be an insupportable burden on the farmer. The tax rate was set at 20 percent of the estimated yield of the land, the remainder to be retained by the tiller. Agricultural production in Shantung was only 20 percent capacity, because of the lack of seed and fertilizer and the conscription of able-bodied men into the Liberation Army. The grain tax was computed on the estimated production, which meant that the entire grain output went for taxes, and the constant mutual checking in rural communities made it difficult to avoid payment.
3. Prior to October 1949 large quantities of Shantung grain were shipped to Manchuria. People were told that this grain was to be bartered for industrial machinery and railway equipment from Russia. The resulting shortage of Shantung grain proved to be too great, however, and the Communist authorities stopped the shipments. Since October 1949 foodstuffs, including rice, have been shipped into Shantung from Manchuria. Since Manchuria is not a rice producing area*, people in Shantung wondered where the rice had originally come from, while others suspected that they were getting back the same grain they had been forced to send to Manchuria.
4. One of the conditions upon which expropriated land was given to poor peasants was that each family receiving land should send one able-bodied member to the army. In cases where this impressment deprived the family of its productive laborers, it was stipulated that the neighbors should provide aid during its busy seasons.

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Comment. The Manchukuo Yearbook lists the rice production of Manchuria as 648,000 metric tons in 1940.

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